

Report to New York City Veterans from Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

AUG. 2001

Dear Friend,

Veterans issues have long been a top priority of mine not only because of their importance to the nation, but as the wife of an ex-Navy service man, the daughter of a World War II veteran and the sister of a Vietnam veteran, the issues are deeply personal to me.

In this newsletter you will find information about veterans legislation before Congress, news about additional disability benefits, and information on how to contact me or other relevant agencies if you should have questions.

In June, I had the opportunity to visit with our troops at Camp McGovern in Bosnia. It was wonderful to meet and converse with the men and women serving their country overseas. This visit was a reminder to me to work harder for veterans issues in this Congress. I want the active duty troops of today to know that while they are serving our country, those of us here in Congress are fighting to protect not only their rights, but also the rights of those who served before them.

I have supported a number of veterans bill that have come before Congress including H.R. 1291, the 21st Century Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act, which passed the House with no opposition. This legislation would increase the rate of educational assistance to veterans. Recently, the Veterans Opportunities Act of 2001, was signed into law. This legislation includes a number of provisions for veterans including increasing the maximum annual Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps award while continuing eligibility for benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill program. In addition, it authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to maintain such offices on overseas military installations as necessary for the provision of veterans' transition assistance, and increases the maximum available benefits for veterans' burial expenses, family coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI). Other benefits include increasing automobile and adaptive assistance benefits for certain disabled veterans, and veterans' specially adapted housing.

**Here's how
to contact me:**

Manhattan:

1651 Third Avenue
Suite 311
New York, NY 10128
212/860-0606

Queens:

28-11 Astoria Blvd.
Astoria, NY 11102
718/932-1804

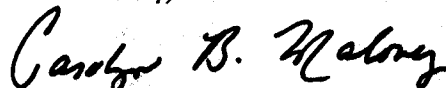
Washington, D.C. :

2430 Rayburn HOB
Wash., D.C. 20515
202/225-7944

As the new Congress progresses, I'll continue to fight to ensure that veterans receive appropriate health care, housing, education, and training. The men and women who risked their lives for our country deserve the best our nation can offer.

Please contact my office if we can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

e-mail: rep.carolyn.maloney@mail.house.gov Web page: www.house.gov/maloney

Veterans Housing

A home is a home whether it is in an apartment, townhouse, mobile home, or co-op. Under current law, veterans wishing to purchase homes with their VA loans, can buy a house, town-

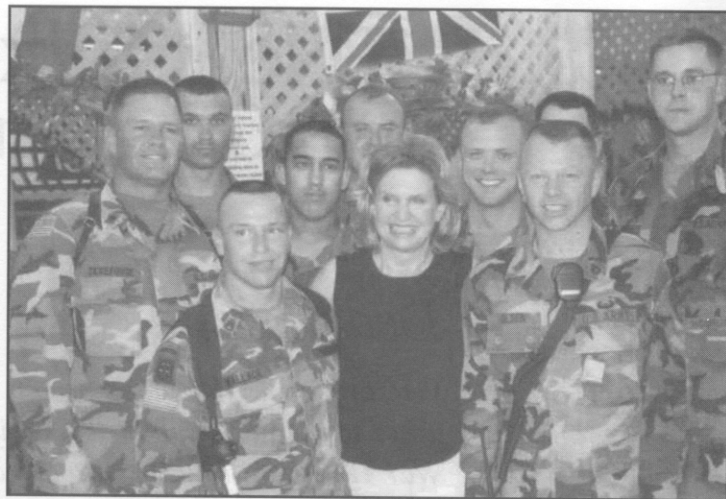
house, condominium, or mobile home, but not residential co-operative units. With the bi-partisan support of Rep. Jack Quinn (R-Buffalo), I re-introduced H.R. 1808, the Veterans Housing Fairness Act of 2001. This legislation will give veterans the freedom to choose where they live by allowing veterans to use their veterans loans to purchase co-ops.

In communities where co-operative housing is common or where the cost of houses and condominiums can be high, a co-operative residential unit is often an affordable alternative. In some areas of New York co-operative housing comprises as much as 30% of all residential owned housing! It is unfair to the men and women who put their lives on the line for this country to be denied the option of purchasing a co-op. The current law severely limits the number of housing choices for our veterans. In my district, co-ops are often the lowest cost housing. It makes no sense to deny veterans the ability to use their veterans benefits to purchase these units. My bill will allow veterans to explore all housing options and choose the one that suits their needs.

Current co-sponsors of H.R.1808 include Rep. Lane Evans, the Ranking Member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, and fellow New York delegation members Reps. Vito Fossella, Joseph Crowley, and John McHugh.

WWII Memorial Construction to Begin

The heart of the nation's capital, the National Mall is an important part of our country's expressions of observance and remembrance. The Mall rightly includes memorials to the veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, yet although more than 16 million Americans served in World War II, there is no World War II memorial on the National Mall. In May, with



On a recent trip Congresswoman Maloney meets with troops stationed at Camp McGovern in Bosnia.

overwhelming bi-partisan support, the House passed legislation to expedite the construction of a World War II Memorial on the National Mall. The legislation easily won passage by the Senate and President Bush signed the bill into law on Memorial Day. First approved by Congress in 1993, the Memorial has faced opposition on issues ranging from the design of the memorial to its placement on the National Mall. The Memorial will be located on the National Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. Construction on the Memorial will begin in December and should be completed by 2004.

Postage Stamp Honors Veterans

As part of the 2001 stamp program, the United States Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp to honor the work of the Veteran's Service Organizations (VSOs). VSOs help veterans and their families by providing assistance with benefit applications, transportation to VA facilities, and memorial and burial services. The commemorative stamp, "Honoring Veterans, Continuing to Serve" was issued on May 23, 2001. It not only salutes the men and women who served in the Armed Forces, but also those veterans that continue to actively serve in the Veteran's Service Organizations.

Diabetes Mellitus now Presumptive Condition

Veterans who are suffering from adult-onset or Type II diabetes mellitus as a result of service in the Republic of Vietnam and exposure to Agent Orange, can now receive disability compensa-

tion for ongoing medical problems linked with their condition. Veterans with in-country, Vietnam service and diagnosed diabetes mellitus can call a new toll free helpline to answer questions about Agent Orange exposure, health care, and benefits. The number to call is 1-800-749-8387. VA representatives answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time; their automated system operates 24 hours a day.

Record Your part of History

The Veterans History Project, created by Congressional legislation last year and signed into law by former President Clinton, collects and preserves oral histories record-

ed on video and audiotape from American war veterans. Each of the 19 million veterans living in the U.S. has a story to tell about the service and sacrifice which changed not only his or her life, but also this nation. I encourage you to find out more about how to participate by contacting the The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress at (202) 707-4916 or visit the website at www.loc.gov/folklife/vets.



Congresswoman Maloney attends the 3rd annual Wreath Laying for Women in Military Service. The Wreath Laying Event is a tribute to the women who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect national security.

Veterans Legislation in 107th Congress

The 107th Congress is only halfway through its first year and already it has been a busy legislative season on issues important to veterans and their families. Here are a few measures to assist vet-

erans that I have co-sponsored; for the complete list of bills please visit my website at www.house.gov/maloney:

■ H.R. 639, The Veterans Comprehensive Hepatitis C Health Care Act creates a single, national standard for testing and treating Hepatitis C among veterans, regardless of service-connected disability status.

■ H.R. 511, The Veterans Right to Know Act directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide information about eligibility for benefits and health care services when a veteran or his or her dependent first applies for any such benefit; and conduct outreach activities to provide these veterans and dependents with such information.

■ H.R. 606, The Leonard Kravitz War Veterans Act of 2001 requires the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force to review the wartime records of Jewish recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross to see if any are deserving of the Medal of Honor.

Military Funeral Honors

The rendering of military funeral honors is the final demonstration of a nation's gratitude to those who have defended our country. If requested by an eligible veteran's family, an honor

guard detail will be provided and will perform a service that includes the folding and presenting of the American flag to the next of kin and the playing of "Taps". Families of eligible veterans request funeral honors through their funeral director, who then contacts the appropriate Military Service to arrange for the funeral honor detail. For more information visit the Military Funeral Honors website at www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil.

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Carolyn B. Maloney

Official Business

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3214

Join Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney at her Town Meeting on Veterans' Issues

EXPERTS ON VETERANS BENEFITS WILL BE ON HAND
TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND SOLVE PROBLEMS
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 4 AT THE VA'S NY HARBOR
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM'S MANHATTAN CAMPUS

Tuesday Sept. 4
7 - 9 pm
423 E. 23rd St.
Ground Floor
Atrium

Problem— or Solution? I want to hear from you!

As your representative in Congress, it's important to me to make sure that federal agencies are appropriately responsive to your needs. If you've applied for a federal

benefit and believe your application is not being processed properly, or if you are having any other problems with a federal agency, my district staff may be able to help.

Please don't hesitate to call or write to me or my staff to ask for assistance. If you'd like to visit with a staff member, it's always best to call first for

an appointment. Here's how to reach me...

Manhattan:

■ 1651 Third Ave., Suite 311, New York, NY 10128
212/860-0606

Queens:

■ 28-11 Astoria Blvd., Astoria, NY 11102 718/932-1804

Washington, D.C.:

■ 2430 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515
202/225-7944

I'm also always interested in any suggestions and recommendations you may have regarding legislation. Many of my best initiatives originate with ideas brought to me by constituents!